

Vacation from School Doesn't Hurt Library

Youngsters throughout Los Angeles County apparently continued to read books during December despite a two-week vacation from school. Or so statistics from the Los Angeles County Public Library System would indicate.

Circulation increased slightly throughout the county, William S. Geller, county librarian, said. And the biggest increase was recorded in the juvenile fiction category, with almost 200,000

books being loaned. That represents more than 25 per cent of the 739,530 books which were loaned throughout the month, Geller said.

All five Torrance branch libraries showed modest increases in December, 1966, over December, 1965, Geller said. Total circulation for the month was 2,100 higher than in December of the previous year. A total of 45,146 books were circulated, compared to 43,010 in December, 1965.

The main Torrance branch continues to pace all other libraries in the city, Geller said. A total of 16,080 books were loaned. Other branches reported the following figures: Isabel Henderson (West Torrance), 9,321; El Retiro, 7,173; North Torrance, 6,804; and WALTERIA, 5,768.

The Lomita library recorded a slight drop in circulation over the December, 1965, figures, Geller said. In December, 1965, the library loaned 5,862 books and last month circulation was 5,828.

CHP, FBI Computers Join in War on Crime

The opening phase of a nationwide computerized crime information system was set in motion this week through a linkup between computers in Washington, D. C., and Sacramento, climaxing a year's planning and activity by national committees led by Californians. Announcement of the connection was made jointly in Sacramento by California Attorney General Thomas C. Lynch and California Highway Patrol Commissioner Harold W. Sullivan, and in Washington by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Ultimately, the system is expected to provide close to 40,000 law enforcement offi-

cers in California with critical and rapid knowledge of wanted persons, stolen goods and stolen vehicles. But, to start with, operating through the California Highway Patrol's Auto-Stat system, only vehicle information will be exchanged on a test basis.

The Highway Patrol Auto-Stat system, which furnishes peace officers everywhere in California with immediate information on stolen or wanted vehicles and stolen or lost license plates, has been operating since the spring of 1965. The computer in Washington operated by the FBI, is to be called the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), and will be a

nationwide index of law enforcement information on crimes and criminals.

expanded to encompass the entire United States. When the initial system becomes fully operative, local police officers anywhere in California will be able to make an immediate check on a suspicious car, a suspicious person, or property suspected as stolen, and receive a response within a minute. Inquiries made will be carried by the California Highway Patrol communications system to Auto-Stat, and be automatically switched either to the California Department of Justice file or to the NCIC in Washington as may be required.

WITHIN TWO months, the California Department of Justice will join the system with a computerized file which will include persons wanted in a felony, stolen or lost firearms, and stolen or lost property identifiable by a serial number. This unit will be tied directly into Auto-Stat in California and the NCIC computers in Washington, and for the present, will complete the California end of a system that will initially include agencies in 12 states. Ultimately, the computerized information system will be

procedures and policies to be followed in establishing NCIC. All three committees were headed by Californians: California Highway Patrol Inspector D. S. Luethje was chairman of the committee on stolen vehicles; O. J. Hawkins, Assistant Director of the California Department of Justice, chairman of the committee on property and firearms; and E. V. Comber of the San Francisco Police Department, now of the California Department of Justice, chairman of the committee on wanted persons.

In making the announcement, Attorney General Lynch and Commissioner Sullivan said: "This connection represents a bench mark in society's fight against crime. Participation will greatly expand the sources of information available to all California law enforcement agencies. It will mean an officer in the field can have almost instant response to inquiries concerning a driver, the car he drives, and the property in the car."

New Nurses To Receive Diplomas

Eight Torrance area girls are among 20 who will receive the Maltese Cross of a vocational nurse Friday evening during graduation ceremonies at Harbor College.

The new vocational nurses will be graduated in ceremonies to be held at 8 p.m. in the Seahawk Center.

Another 19 young women will receive their caps, symbolic of their successful completion of the first semester of training.

The graduates include Consuelo Boyer, Mary Lou Carso, Arlyene Clark, Patricia Horbert, and Helen Schwartzhoff, all of Torrance, Shery Knowles of Redondo Beach, Margaret Phillips of Wilmington, and Lillian Bell of Harbor City.

South High Shop Hit By Thieves

An acetylene torch valued at \$260 was taken from a machine shop classroom at South High School Wednesday evening.

Torrance police said a window in the classroom had been smashed. The theft was discovered by Del Peckum, an industrial arts teacher, police said.

Summer Classes Slated

Summer sessions will begin July 5 in Los Angeles City Schools following action by the city Board of Education.

The six-week sessions will end Aug. 15, Jack P. Drowthier, superintendent of schools,

said. More than 155,000 students are expected to enroll, including 32,000 junior college students.

The tentative program calls for summer classes in this area at White Junior High School, 22102 S. Figueroa St., and Banning High School, 1500

Avalon Blvd., and at Gardena High School, 1301 W. 182nd St.

Adult classes will be offered through the Gardena Adult School and all seven junior colleges in the city system will enroll summer students.

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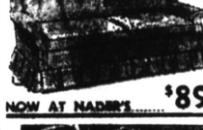


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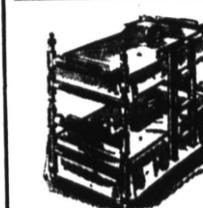
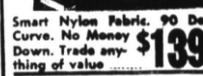
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